

SEPTEMBER 2013



Sandown North News



*From the desk of
JoAnn K. Georgian, Principal*

The 2013-2014 school year is in full swing. The children are engaged in their learning with smiles on their faces. We welcomed 17 young learners to our newly created pre-school program. Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Leone, and Mrs. Stewart are so happy to be teaching the pre-schoolers and watching them grow this year.

Dismissal for our youngest students has been challenging. We are trying a new system. We will be dismissing both pre-school and kindergarten through the

front door. If you are the first car in line, please pull up to just beyond the front door, where the sidewalk curves. All others need to **stay in one** line behind that first car. We think if we have them all together it will flow more quickly. Thanks for being patient while we figure out our new procedures.

We do have some other changes that I would like to share with you:

Mrs. Bollhorst is a second grade teacher this year as Mrs. Kamyck has taken a leave of absence. Mrs. Chaput has been our Physical Education teacher to date as Mrs. DeCristofaro is out on a medical leave. Mrs. DeCristofaro will be returning in October. Ms. Gomes is no longer working here as she has accepted a teaching position elsewhere. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Tubbs are

our kindergarten teachers and work closely with the Pre-kindergarten team. Mrs. Sotirakopoulos and Ms. Laurence continue to work with our kindergarten children as well. Mrs. Perkins is still working with us but in a new role as a Title I Tutor. Mrs. Harriman has moved to Texas and we are right now in the process of hiring to fill that position. And lastly, Ms. Yankowskas is our new music teacher, replacing Mrs. Quigley, who retired. Ms. Yankowskas will also be the teacher of string instrument players, replacing Mrs. Nelson, who retired. We welcome all our new staff members and wish those who have left much happiness and success in their new endeavors.

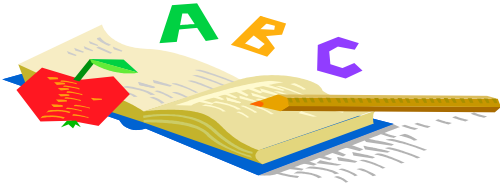
Some things change but others remain the same, like breakfast. We do still provide it for your children if you are interested. However, I want to make you aware that some of our young children choose to eat breakfast here but in talking to them later, we realize that they also ate breakfast at home. Although Mrs. Rose's food is yummy,

children do not need to eat two breakfasts. ☺ Please be sure that your children know what you would like them to do regarding breakfast...eat at home or eat here but certainly not both. Thanks!

Our PTA Board members, Heidi Chaput, Dan Fournier, Michele Aprahamian and Michele Kontos, as well as our Volunteer Coordinator, Alex Haig, are working together to provide all our children with the supports they may need as well as enriching activities. We are so lucky to have so many wonderful people who work alongside us every day. Please consider getting involved with them in some way, whether on a grand scale or a small scale at home. We appreciate all efforts.

Welcome to another exciting year of learning and collaboration!





Curriculum News

*From the desk of Patrice Liff,
Assistant Principal/Curriculum
Coordinator*

Welcome back to school! It is so nice to see our halls filled with the smiling faces of our students - they are ready to learn! Every month you will find a section of our newsletter dedicated to curriculum and learning, and sometimes, important reminders.

Focus on Assessment:

During the first three weeks of October, the students in Sandown and throughout the tri-state region of New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island will be participating in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). All Sandown North students in grades 3 will be tested in reading and mathematics.

The NECAP tests are designed to measure your child's progress

in meeting the New Hampshire Grade Level Equivalencies or GLE's. Our district's curriculums are written to correlate to the state GLE's, which define the knowledge a student should have by the end of each grade level. The NECAP test assesses the understanding of content covered during the last school year. For example, the 3rd grade test will measure what a student should know and be able to do after completing second grade.

The test itself consists of three parts for every subject tested. Our students will be tested over a six-day period beginning on October 5 and ending on October 15th. Make-up tests will be given during and after the testing window.

Parents often ask how they can best support their child during testing dates. Below are some important pointers for you to consider:

- Make sure children have a good night's sleep before the test.

- Feed your child a breakfast that consists of complex carbohydrates and protein. This will help your child reason through challenging questions.

- Send in a high protein snack and a cold water bottle for your child to have during the morning hours. This will help your child sustain throughout the testing situation.

- Make sure your child arrives at school on time. If your child is tardy, he/she will not be allowed into the testing situation and will have to complete a portion of the test during the make-up period.

- Most importantly, encourage your child to try hard and give it the best possible effort. Encourage in a positive manner that lets your children know that you believe in them. If your child seems unusually stressed about the test, please let Mrs. Georgian, Mrs. Stafford, or Mrs. Liff know.

Thank you in advance for your support during our testing weeks.



Remembering Bus Arrival and Dismissal Procedures:

We will be stopping car traffic in compliance with New Hampshire bus regulation SAF-C-1306.03 - Operation of Flashing Lights. Busses must activate their flashing red lights while loading or unloading students. Vehicles cannot pass the busses while red lights are flashing and can be fined if reported.

Students arriving by car will be unloaded beginning at 8:20 and ending at 8:40. There is a staff member on duty to direct traffic and will tell you when it is safe to pull your car into the front lot to park. We will be stopping cars when we unload busses. If you are dropping something off to the school, please pull around back and get into the student drop off line. You will be directed to park at the front of the school when it is safe to do so. Our front parking lot is

closed to traffic going in from 8:15-8:45 daily.

Dismissal of Students: Students who are picked up will be dismissed at 3:10. Once the busses arrive, staff will be stopping car traffic until busses are loaded and leave the lot. To avoid accidents, please do not turn around behind the school and leave the way you have entered. The staff person on duty will tell you when it is safe to exit the school yard. Our parking lot is closed to traffic going in from 3:00-3:30 for bus dismissal.

Please note that our procedures are designed to ensure the safety of the children. If you have any questions or concerns about our procedures, please direct them to either Mrs. Georgian or Mrs. Liff.

Parents Right to Know:

In response to regulations set by the New Hampshire Department of Education and the United State Department of Education,

we are required to notify you of our staff's highly qualified status. All teachers, Title I Tutors, and support staff at Sandown North Elementary School meet these requirements and are highly qualified to teach. We are also required to inform you that parents have the right to request information regarding their child's performance level in the classroom or from Title I. Any parent of an English language proficient student has the right to withdraw his/her child from English language instruction. If you have any questions about these regulations, please contact Patrice Liff



Technology News

We have big plans and ambitious goals for learning through technology this year.

All of our students will learn about digital citizenship. They will be Safe, Trustworthy, Always respectful, and

Responsible with technology. They will treat equipment with care, treat others with kindness, and seek parent and teacher guidance. Specifically, students need to inform parents or teachers before websites are used or personal information is shared.

Students at all grade levels will use MobyMax to support their progress with language and math skills. A MobyMax link is available on the student pull down menu at sandownnorth.com. Usernames and passwords are the same as for student school accounts.

Grade specific technology goals include the following: First graders will use a mouse and keyboard to write and draw. Grade two students will learn keyboard finger placement, use word processing software and create visual maps. Third graders will learn to touch type, build research skills, and create presentations.

Second and third graders will also have the opportunity to use educational programs accessed through Google Apps. If

you have not yet turned in a Google Apps for Education permission slip, please consider doing so soon. Forms can be downloaded from the documents tab at sandownnorth.com. I am also happy to send home a paper copy at your request.

Thank You,

Justin Bentley-Melle

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